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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 27, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable JO ANN EMERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We respond to Your love, gracious God, with words of gratitude, thoughts of praise, an attitude of thanksgiving, and hearts full of appreciation for Your marvelous gifts to us and to all people. Above all else we have been blessed with the gift of life and with that gift the great opportunities to appreciate our families, our friends and our colleagues. You have given us a moment to live in this turbulent world with times of majestic nobility and times of despair. Help us, O God, so to live our lives that we will not be satisfied with the darkness but delight in Your light and in Your will. In Your name we pray. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BLUNT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain five 1-minutes from each side.

### SPRINGTIME BRINGS BLOSSOMS AND TAX TIME

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, just look outside. The cherry blossoms are blooming, the weather is warm here, it is officially spring in our Nation's Capital. It is a glorious time. Or is it?

Let me give the American worker's vision of spring. Madam Speaker, can you say "tax time," "budding IRS audits," and "blossoming tax forms"?

In a recent survey, when given the choice between being audited by the IRS or having root canal surgery, more Americans chose root canal surgery. More and more American working men and women are fed up with being bullied by the IRS, a bureaucratic behemoth that tramples the rights of the taxpayers, the very customers the IRS is charged to serve.

Americans are completely fed up with paying thousands of dollars and spending countless hours on their tax returns only to incur abuse from the customer-unfriendly and arrogant IRS. Today, it is actually an anomaly to

find anyone left in this country who can do his or her taxes.

Madam Speaker, our current Tax Code must be abolished and replaced with one that is fair, simple, and honest.

### "SHAM" CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM BILL PULLED FROM CONSIDERATION

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, the Republican leadership had planned to bring up its sham campaign finance reform legislation today, but we learned this morning that they had pulled the bill.

Today's New York Times editorial describes the reasons for Speaker GINGRICH's retreat. It says, "In a brazen repudiation of his own promises, NEWT GINGRICH has yanked campaign finance reform from the House agenda. The Speaker's action yesterday came after a frantic but fruitless effort by his aides to round up the votes to block genuine reform legislation on the House floor. Mr. GINGRICH's allies are now reportedly plotting to reschedule consideration of reform bills next month, but only under rules requiring a two-thirds vote for approval. These desperation tactics are an abuse of power reminiscent of conduct Mr. GINGRICH himself deplored for years."

Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH) tried to foist a sham bill on the Members of this House with an antiunion provision, unacceptable to the Democrats, tied to a procedural rule designed to prevent a vote on genuine reform. The Speaker's tactics clearly backfired, and I am glad that they did.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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